



# Arizona Department of Public Safety

**- For Immediate Release -**

**- Tuesday, October 28, 2008 -**

## **Two separate fatal collisions close eastbound Interstate 40 for several hours on October 25 near Sanders**

On Saturday, October 25, at about 2:55 a.m., Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officers responded to a one vehicle roll-over on Interstate 40 near milepost 344 eastbound (just outside of Sanders, Arizona near the New Mexico border). The collision resulted in the death of a young adult female and was ultimately investigated by Navajo Police as it involved tribal members. Both eastbound lanes were closed from the time of the collision until about 8:09 a.m. to allow Navajo Police of Window Rock to investigate. Traffic had backed up about four miles when both lanes of the roadway were reopened.

DPS officers alerted drivers of the reopening. As eastbound traffic began moving again, a semi-truck and trailer, which was previously stopped in traffic, collided into two other eastbound semi-trucks roughly two miles from the original collision scene. This collision, which occurred at about 8:28 a.m., resulted in the deaths of Abdi M. Yusuf, 45, and Muhayadin M. Sulub, 25, of Columbus, Ohio.

DPS Officers responded and investigated this separate collision that occurred when Yusuf's 2000 Freightliner Tractor Trailer struck the rear of a 2008 Kenworth Tractor Trailer and then a 2002 Peterbuilt Tractor Trailer. Yusuf was ejected from his truck and was deceased on scene and his co-driver, Sulub, died on scene as a result of injuries sustained in the series of collisions. Both the Freightliner and Peterbuilt caught fire. Two large explosions resulted from the fire that was felt as far as five miles away.

Eastbound traffic was re-routed by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to northbound US 191 through Ganado to eastbound State Route 264 through Window Rock onto New Mexico Highway 491 back to Interstate 40. At about 3:31 p.m., two other semi-trucks were involved in a rear-end collision with no injuries in the area of milepost 329 eastbound on Interstate 40, causing additional delays. The roadway was reopened just before 4:30 p.m.

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